



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Western Region Notes

APRIL 22, 2004

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

2004 NOAA Administrator Award Winners: Congratulations to the following 2004 NOAA Administrator Award Winners from Western Region:

Brenda Alcorn, Steve Shumate: Brenda and Steve (Colorado Basin RFC) was part of a group nominated for developing a database to archive mission-critical hydrologic information and tools to use these valuable data to improve NOAA's fresh water forecasting services.

Don Britton, Paul Flatt, Randy Weatherly: Don (WFO Great Falls), Paul (WFO Boise), and Randy (WFO Salt Lake City) were nominated for increasing NOAA's ability to provide highly specific digital forecast information through the Internet to numerous web users.

Mike Lauderdale, Tom Page: Mike (WFO San Diego) and Tom (WRH) were part of a group nominated for their support in restoring NWS radar and upper air systems during and after the San Diego fires in 2003.

AROUND THE REGION



Former Glasgow MIC Jim Rea and current Glasgow MIC Julie Adolphson participate in a radio show.

Environmental Hero: Jim Rea, former MIC at WFO Glasgow, was recently hailed as one of the nation's 2004 NOAA Environmental Heros. Rea was one of the 31 winners nationwide this year. He received the award for sharing his vast knowledge and interests in hydrology and climatology.

Jim was notified of his award on April 20 during a live radio interview with KLTZ/KLAN radio in Glasgow. Western Region Director Vickie Nadolski made the presentation via phone. Also on the live broadcast were Rea's wife, Jean, and current WFO Glasgow MIC Julie Adolphson.



Patsy Buckley, ASA at WFO Reno, get's cuffed by Muscular Dystrophy Foundation "cop".

WFO Reno's ASA Raises Money for Muscular Dystrophy: WFO Reno's ASA, Patsy Buckley, was "arrested" on April 1. She was "locked up" until she could provide bail money which went to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Patsy collected over \$800, most of which was given by charitable WFO Reno staff members, for this worthy cause.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: This week's Statement of the Week is a wind advisory issued by Dan LeBlanc of WFO Flagstaff AZ. The product is succinct and was issued with nearly 24 hours lead time. The advisory verified "nicely" with winds from 41 to 53 mph common in the advisory area. Similar products were issued by WFOs Phoenix and Tucson. Good work Dan and everyone else involved.

WWUS75 KFGZ 162216
NPWFGZ

URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLAGSTAFF AZ
316 PM MST FRI APR 16 2004

.ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON...SOUTHWEST WINDS AT THE 25 TO 35 MPH RANGE WITH GUSTS FROM 40 TO 50 MPH WILL DEVELOP ACROSS THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF ARIZONA. THESE WINDS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH A PACIFIC COLD FRONT MOVING INTO THE STATE.

A WIND ADVISORY MEANS SUSTAINED WIND SPEEDS FROM 30 TO 39 MPH AND OR WIND GUSTS FROM 40 TO 57 MPH ARE EXPECTED.

AZZ099-017-038>040-170500-
BLACK MESA AREA-CHINLE VALLEY-CHUSKA MOUNTAINS AND DEFIANCE
PLATEAU-EASTERN MOGOLLON RIM-LITTLE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY IN
APACHE CO-
LITTLE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY IN COCONION CO-
LITTLE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY IN NAVAJO CO-
NORTHEAST PLATEAU AND MESAS SOUTH OF 264-
NORTHEAST PLATEAUS AND MESAS 264 NORTH-
OAK CREEK AND SYCAMORE CANYONS-WESTERN MOGOLLON RIM-WHITE
MOUNTAINS-
316 PM MST FRI APR 16 2004

....WIND ADVISORY SATURDAY FROM NOON MST UNTIL 7 PM MST (1 PM MDT
TO 8 PM MDT...

SOUTH OF SOUTHWEST WINDS OF 25 TO 35 MPH WITH GUSTS BETWEEN 40
AND 50 MPH WILL DEVELOP AFTER NOON MST (1 PM MDT) SATURDAY. AREAS
OF BLOWING DUST MAY REDUCE VISIBILITIES...ESPECIALLY ACROSS THE
NAVAJO NATION.

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JDL
WWWW



Reno IMETs (left to right) Wendell Hohmann, Jim Wallmann, and Rhett Milne set up satellite dish for Reno's Fire Weather Open House.

WFO Reno Hosts Fire Weather Open House: WFO Reno hosted a "Fire Weather Open House" on March 26. Those in attendance included the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and local fire fighting agencies. Incident Meteorologists (IMETs) Rhett Milne, Jim Wallmann, and Wendell Hohmann provided tours. They also demonstrated IMET equipment and software, including FX-Net, a laptop-based program which receives, stores, and displays real-time weather information (via satellite) in the field. Fire weather analysis and forecast procedures were discussed, and new graphic digital forecast products were demonstrated. To conclude

activities in the afternoon, the group observed a scheduled radiosonde release to collect and transmit upper air weather data.



Ken Holmes, WFO Spokane Warning Coordination Meteorologist, describes NWS digital forecasts to a conference participant.

Pacific Northwest WFOs Participate in "Partners in Preparedness" Conference: Warning Coordination Meteorologists (WCMS) from four Pacific Northwest Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) participated in the Washington State "Partners in Preparedness Conference," held in Bellvue, Washington on April 13-14. Ted Buehner (WFO Seattle) was joined by Tyree Wilde (WFO Portland), Ken Holmes (WFO Spokane), and Dennis Hull (WFO Pendleton) to support this event, attended by 550 participants representing emergency management, business and industry, government, schools, and non-profit volunteer organizations.

James Lee Witt, former Director of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) was the keynote speaker for the Conference. He addressed the current evolution of emergency management and its needs. Ron Carlee, from Arlington County, Virginia, also spoke on his county's response to the September 11th attack on the Pentagon.

There were over 40 concurrent sessions focusing on emergency management and education issues. Ted Buehner presented material for two of these sessions. The first, "Partners in Weather Preparedness," included a discussion of the Interactive Forecast Preparation System (IFPS) and the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD). The second session, conducted in partnership with George Crawford from Washington State Emergency Management, "An All-Hazards Approach to Notification of Warning and Evacuation Messages to Hazard Impacted Areas," focused on all-hazards NOAA Weather Radio and the new All-Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB).

National Weather Service (NWS) operated a booth during the conference, focusing on digital forecast services and other NWS products. A laptop computer and internet

connection enabled real-time demonstrations of NWS products and services. Television Washington (TVW), the state public cable TV network, covered the entire conference and other local media also covered the event.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION



Errol Covington, Bingham County Disaster Services Coordinator displays "river staff gage" and appreciation plaques presented by WFO Pocatello.

New River Forecast Point Ceremony in Eastern Idaho: A new river gage and forecast point were recently established on the Snake River in Eastern Idaho, as a result of a joint effort between WFO Pocatello, the Northwest River Forecast Center (NWRFC), and Bingham County (Idaho) Disaster Services. To commemorate the event, a ceremony was held on April 19 at the site of the new gage. The ceremony highlighted the area's flooding history and community efforts since record floods occurred in 1997. Vernon Preston, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at WFO Pocatello, made and presented a special plaque during the ceremony. Jim Meyer, Meteorologist in Charge, also presented a plaque to Errol Covington, Bingham County Disaster Coordinator, on behalf of the WFO Pocatello staff. Interviews with local broadcast and print media followed the ceremony.



Hallie Stone, radio talk show host, interviews Sherrie Herbert, WFO Pocatello Service Hydrologist.

Pocatello Service Hydrologist Provides Drought Information on Radio Talk Show:

WFO Pocatello Service Hydrologist, Sherrie Hebert, recently provided valuable drought and hydrologic information for southeastern Idaho on the "Trish & Hallie Political and Information Talk Show," broadcast on radio station KWIK in Pocatello and station KID in Idaho Falls. This program reaches 12 of the 17 counties served by WFO Pocatello. Sherrie discussed impacts of the five-year drought, current snow pack trends and river flow forecasts, and provided seasonal outlook information. She also took several call-in questions from the public and provided information on

the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services available on WFO Pocatello's web page. Hallie Stone, the talk show host, indicated they plan to invite Sherrie back at a future date to provide an update.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

High-Resolution, Real Time Radar Data Now Available From NOAA: High-resolution radar data from the national network of Next Generation Radar (NEXRAD) is now available in real time to government, university, and private sector users, the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced today. This data represents the highest resolution picture of what the radar system is "seeing" in real time -- as the antenna spins. As a result, faster, higher resolution and more detailed weather products will be developed. Researchers have

already proven the value of this data in various applications. Now it will be available to everyone. The National Weather Service (NWS) will distribute the data from the Next Generation Radar, also known as the WSR-88D, through four top-tier sites, said Tim Crum, NWS NEXRAD Operations Focal Point with the Radar Operations Center in Norman, Okla. Three of these sites -- Purdue University, University of Oklahoma, and The Education and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas -- have agreed to make Level II data available to all private sector users equally on a cost-recovery basis without restriction on redistribution or use. The fourth site, the NWS Telecommunication Operations Center, will make data available through a Family of Services approach if there is interest from the commercial community.

VISIT and ISTEPDS Sessions: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) and the Integrated Sensor Training Professional Development Series (ISTPDS) sessions for May are listed below. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu. The teletraining calendar is at: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/ecal.asp>

The teletraining planning calendar with sessions offered by COMET (DLAC), Interactive Forecast Preparation System (IFPS) PDS and Warning Decision Training Branch (WDTB) is at: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/planning.html>

The sessions currently scheduled for May are:

- C Mesoscale Convective Vortices
(Basic, May 5,13,21,26)
- C **Updated - Water Vapor Channel Satellite Imagery
(Basic, May 17,24)
- C Applying the Ten Principles of Climate Monitoring in NWS Field Operations
(Basic, May 6,18)
- C The Enhanced-V: A Satellite Severe Storm Signature
(Basic, May 21,28)
- C Lightning Meteorology I (Basic, May 3)
- C Lightning Meteorology II (Advanced, May 4)
- C Use of GOES/RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing
Severe Weather across CONUS (RSO 3)
Part 1 (Intermediate, May 6,11)
Part 2 (May 7,12)

Special Note: Instructors request that your phone should not be placed on hold during the teletraining. Please see additional information below.

**Updated - Water vapor channel session now includes examples from the three sounder water vapor channels available on AWIPS (OB3 release).

All sessions can be reviewed in advance by following the instructions in the student guides available on the ISTEPDS/VISIT page:

<http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/visithome.asp>

IFPS Science Steering Team: The Office of Science and Technology chartered the IFPS Science Steering Team (ISST) to examine IFPS science issues and to propose solutions and recommended courses of action. We have approached this charter from

a number of different angles and efforts, with some good successes and some ongoing challenges. Recently, and perhaps most visibly, is the distribution to a few test offices of DGEX (Downscaled GFS with Eta eXtension), EMC's new effort to dynamically downscale the GFS solution through our medium range forecast period. Current plans are for the DGEX to be deployed via the SBN to all offices sometime in June.

Throughout ISST's efforts we have looked to the field for input, guidance, and support. The team members feel very strongly that we need to serve as a primary conduit or focus between field operations and NWS Headquarters. With many new and ongoing efforts to re-focus the NWS digital forecast program, and growing operational experience, the ISST feels it would be prudent at this time to review the developing digital forecast process. In this light, we have just recently launched several Forums that are intended to encourage NWS-wide discussion. Through these Forums, we are seeking input and ideas regarding a number of key questions around digital forecasting.

The ISST encourages you to visit the Forums and to participate in the discussion. You are the experts in day-to-day digital forecasting and your participation in these discussions is both appreciated and needed. Please help us as we look at a number of critical questions regarding our new forecasting paradigm.

The Forums have been set up on the NWSTC website at:

<http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/cgi/dcf/forum/dcboard.cgi>

(Called "Forums in Digital Forecast Process Conference" with four sub-areas)

Supporting documents, which we encourage you to read, are posted on the Forums and on the ISST website at: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ost/ifps_sst/dfp.html

The ISST will be periodically monitoring these Forums over the next few weeks. Direct feedback to ISST members is also encouraged. (A members listing is available on the ISST website above.) We will determine the duration of these Forums based on the interest and participation. When the ideas, feedback, and discussion have been collected, we intend to prepare a Digital Forecast Process Position Paper that we hope will convey the consensus of the Forums. To achieve our goal effectively we need your participation!

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

SOD/OPS Board Meeting: Western Region will host the SOD Chiefs and Office of Operational Systems (OPS) Board Meeting in Park City Utah, June 16 and 17. Each year the SOD Chiefs from each Region get together with NWS Headquarters OPS to discuss, prioritize, and resolve issues pertaining to Electronics, Facilities, Information Technology, Safety, Environmental Compliance, and Training. A summary of the board meeting will be available on the WRH SOD Web Page.

Western Region AWIPS Status: Seven Western Region sites have successfully installed AWIPS Operational Build 3 (OB3). The majority of Western Region sites are scheduled for OB3 installations in May. OB3.1 and OB3.2 will also be available soon.

NWR Install: The Port Orford, OR., USDA funded NWR (WNG-596) was installed on April 19. The installation was performed by Darren Dixon and Dave Kauwe from the

Medford Office. Merri Richmond and Joe Lachacz also assisted in the installation. This is the 8th new transmitter installed in Western Region this year. This transmitter covers most of Curry County and provides NWR coverage to the Marine Community.

The Do's and Don'ts of Stress: Stress is a physical and emotional reaction to pressure, change, fear, or the unknown. Stress can be positive, though we tend to think of stress in the negative sense. To learn to master stress so it doesn't become your master, here are some do's and don'ts:

DO

- C Approach situations like a problem-solver, not a victim.
- C Put matters in perspective; every problem isn't a crisis.
- C Maintain self-confidence.
- C Adopt a cooperative work style.
- C Accept that no one is perfect.
- C Forgive yourself (and others) for making mistakes.
- C Set priorities and tackle tasks in an organized way.
- C Find a constructive way to express anger or concerns.
- C Exercise-walk, join a health club, take up a sport.
- C Get enough rest.
- C Laugh as often as possible.
- C Get professional help if you're having trouble handling stress.

DO NOT

- C React to every problem as if it's a crisis.
- C Take work-related problems or situations personally.
- C Be a "control freak."
- C Be afraid to make a mistake.
- C Blow up at yourself or others.
- C Try to assign blame.
- C Expect the worst.
- C Worry about the unknown future.
- C Suffer in silence.
- C Withdraw from potentially stressful situations or people.
- C Use alcohol or other drugs to reduce stress.